A DECLARATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY Sir Thomas Fairfax, AND HIS COVNCELL OF WARRE, ON BEHALFE OF THEMselves and the whole Army, shewing the grounds of their present advance towards the City of LONDON.



A. BODLEIA

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A DECLARATION

Of his Excellency Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX, and his Counsell of Warre, on behalfe of themselves and the whole Army, shewing the grounds of their present advance towards the City of LONDON.

WHen this Army was formerly led, by the manifold dispensations of Gods providence, and the grounds then declared to advance towards the City of London, we held it our duty to yeild the Kingdome the some of those desires, which we had to propose, on behalfe of it and our selves, where in we should acquiesse: And having received from the Parliament some hopes of due satisfaction therein, and some assurance from the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and Common-councell of the City of London, of their ready concurrance with us in those things: And also great resolutions protested by them of their care and tenderneese, to preserve all the rights and priviledges of Parliament safe, free, and inviolate from attempts of all kinds; we doe appeale to God, to the City, and to all men, what a speedy compliance their desires for our removall to a further distance found in this Army: For preventing all feares, iealousies, and other inconveniences to the City, and to give cleere testimony that we had nothing in our breste but thoughts of peace, and the good and welfare both of Parliament, City and Kingdome; notwithstanding many falce and scandalous reports raised, that we sought our selves, that wee had vile and wicked ends, and that nothing would satisfie the Souldiers but the plunder of the City, the contrary whereof did manifestly appeare, when they so readily marched back upon hopes of satisfaction in their desires of publike concernments.

Having then upon the aforesaid confidence so with-drawne, and out of a iust sense of the Countries suffering (by quartering) re-

moved the head quarter of the Army above forty miles from London, and dispersed the rest well nigh two hundred miles, for the more ease of all parties; and that we might give the better satisfaction to the Kingdome; and being in this secure way, and labouring after the sudden settlement of the Kingdome, we had even brought to perfection the particular proposals, (included in the generals of our first Representation) to be sent to the Parliament for a finall conclusion of all our troubles; and also had made good progresse towards the present reliefe of distressed Ireland, by assigning a competent force both of horse and foote forthwith to have advanced for that service.

But the Kingdomes and our enemies being most vigilent and active to prevent and frustrate those good intentions and endeavours of ours (that they might carry on their former evil designes, and underhand practices, & also preserve themselves from the hands of Justice) they have endeavoured to cast the Kingdome into a new and bloudy warre, and for that end have procured the underhand plotting of severall Reformadoes and others: Have contrived, promoted, and caused to be entred into by severall persons, a wicked and treasonable combination, as is sufficiently manifested by a Declaration passed thereupon by both Houses of Parliament the three and twenteth of July last, for prevention of the disturbances that were like to ensue thereupon: From which kind of disorders, the City had bin well preserved during the space of almost four yeares, whilest the Militia was in the hands of the old Commissioners) whereby it appears there was cause for the Army to intreat the Parliament that the Militia might be returned into the hands it was in before, as also for divers other good reasons.

First, the old Commissioners of the Militia (that have been since left out) were not only persons without all exception, having beene formerly chosen and approved by the Parliament, and City, but also men of whom the City, Parliament and Kingdome, have had above four yeares experience in the faithfull discharge of their trust; men that ever from the beginning, in the worst of times, and in the occasions of greatest difficulty, had faithfully and constantly ingaged for and with the Parliament in this cause:

Men

Men that were alwayes moſt deſirous of peace, but of a ſafe and well grounded one, and that had alwayes teſtified a great care to prevent all occaſions of embroyling the Kingdome in a new War; Now that on a ſuddaine this Truſt, which they had faithfully diſcharged ſo long, ſhould be taken out of their hands, and put into the hands of others, ſome whereof (at the beſt) have beene very coole in the ſervice of the Parliament at the beginning of this War; That this ſhould be preſſed, and in a manner forced upon the Parliament, with ſuch importunity from the Common Councell, that ſome out of every Ward ſhould be appointed to ſollicite the Members of the Houſe of Commons every day as they went in and out at the Houſe, with Profeſſions, that they would never leave the doors of the Houſe, till they were ſatisfied in their deſires; That they would not be contented with the Militia of the City of London onely, unleſſe they might have power over that of the Suburbs and outparts; and all this before the peace of the Kingdome was ſetled, or the propoſitions ſent to the King for that purpoſe. Theſe things miniſtred great cauſe of ſuſpicion, that this alteration of the Militia was in order to a deſigne, and to make the termes of the peace and agreement with the King (on which the ſecurity of the whole Kingdome and their poſterity is to be bottomed) more ſutable to the private bargainings and undertakings of ſome men, then to the publick welfare of the whole Kingdome in its ſeaurity and proſperity, for the preſent and in future times. But this Deſigne diſcovered it ſelfe more clearely by ſuch things as accompanied the purſuite of this alteration of the Militia, and enſued upon the obtaining thereof. At the ſame time that the alteration of the Militia was ſet on foot, the ſame perſons with as much earneſtneſſe preſſed for the diſbanding of this Army, before any thing was ſetled for the ſecurity and liberties of the Kingdome. At the ſame time the Common Councell was new modell'd, and a Lord Major choſen that might ſuite with the preſent Deſigne in hand; At the ſame time (in colour of differences in ſome circumſtances of Church Government) it was earneſtly endeavoured that ſuch as had beene conſtantly true and moſt faithfull to the intereſt of this Kingdome, ſhould be diſabled to have any imployment in Church or Commonwealth either in England or Ireland; And without any ſuch colour or pretence, divers perſons were

left out of the Common Councell, and Militia, of eminent deserts and fidelity, and others brought into their roomes, that had either testified an ill affection, or little affection to the Parliament and their Cause; And such as seemed to withdraw themselves from all employment in the beginning of this warre, now at the winding up thereof, are ambitious to thrust themselves into employments, with a Designe (as may justly be suspected) to frustrate and overthrow and overthrow in the Close of all the fruit and effect of all the cost and blood that hath been spent and spilt in this Cause. And after that with difficulty, and not without reluctancy in the Houses of Parliament, they had obtained the power of the Militia in the City of London, and also in the outparts for the space of one yeare: Many chiefe Officers and under Officers in the Trained bands of knowne trust and fidelity were displaced, and others of more doubtfull affection placed in their roomes; little care was taken of the honour of the Parliament, which was continually trampled under foot, and their authority affronted by every rabble of Women, Apprentices, Reformadoes & souldiers; which latter sort of persons were thereby so encouraged to rise higher and higher in their tumultuous carriages against the Houses, till at length it is risen to the height of barbarous and monstrous violence against the Parliament, that they might set themselves on workes, and the Kingdome on fire againe: And now at length the Designe appeares open faced, and though the Militia be made as the principall ground of the quarrell, yet by the late vow and engagement set on foot before any alteration of the Militia; and the pressing so much the Message of the 12 of May, and the Kings comming to London to confirme the same, shew, that the Militia is desired but in order to that Designe, and to force the Parliament (being wholly in their power) to such termes of peace as they pleased.

In the next place, when the interest of the Common Councell in their change of the Militia shall be claimed as the birthright of the City of London, (which they never had any colour to pretend to) having by the indulgency of the Parliament unto them since this Parliament, in respect of the great use they have had of them, and the many good services they have received from them) it is time for all the Kingdome to looke to their Birthrights, if such a claime shall be

held up against both Houses of Parliament: That upon no occasion whatsoever, nor in no time of danger and distraction whatsoever, they may appoint these that shall have the power of the Militia of London without the consent of the Common Councell especially, when as the Houses shall sit under their power. The late example may evidence to all the world who shall be Masters of the Parliaments freedome and resolutions: And Common Reason will teach every man who shall be Masters of their Birthrights of the whole Kingdome, when there shall be no Army on foot, when they have the confidence to dispute for the Mastery, notwithstanding such an an Army as this to check and ballance them in behalfe of the Kingdome and Parliament.

Lastly, The Army discerning how intimate some of the new Militia were with some of the eleven accused Members; how forward they were to comply and act with them in their endeavours to raise a new a new Warre; how they made eighteene or nineteene votes in order thereunto together with them, in one night; All which the Common Councell and Parliament disliked and revoked, how notwithstanding they secretly promoted their Designes by private Listings, which now appeares to have beene still working under ground.

The Army, we say, observing this, and having nothing more in their thoughts & desires, then to settle a speedy safe and well grounded peace, and to prevent a new War, found it necessary to desire, that the Militia might be put into the hands wherein it was formerly, who had approved themselves both to the Army, Parliament, and Kingdome, to be sober minded men, and not given to any practices whereby a new Warre might be kindled; to the intent, that the Army being secured by that meanes from that danger, might with the more confidence retire farther from the City, inlarge their Quarter for the greater ease of the Kingdome, and intend wholly the setling of a sure peace in this Kingdome, and a speedy and effectuall relicfe of Ireland; which was almost brought to a period, and nothing in the sight of men could have hinder'd, but the cursed violence upon the Parliament under pretence of the Militia; which according to our desire being restored againe into the hands of the Old Commoners by an Ordinance of both Houses dated July the 5. (in pur-

stance of the aforesaid treasonable combination) severall Petitions were presented to the Common Councell and City of London in the name of the Apprentices and others, importing their desires, That the Militia of the City might continue in the hands of the former Commoners according to the Ordinance of the 4 of May last. Whereupon Monday July the 26. the Common Councell of the City presents their petitions to both Houses for changing the Militia; wherein the House of Lords refuse to alter their resolutions, the House of Commons answered they would take it into consideration the next morning; Notwithstanding which, the City and Kingdome cannot be ignorant with what rage and insolency the tumult of Apprentices the same day forced both Houses; They blocked up their doores, swearing they would keepe them in till they had passed what votes they pleased. They threatned the Houses if they granted not their desires: knocking, hooting and hollowing so at the Parliament doores, that many times the Members could not be heard to speake or debate; not suffering the House of Comons to divide for determining such questions as were put, crying out that those that gave their votes against them should be sent out to them; very often and loudly crying, Agree, Agree, Dispatch, wee'l waite no longer; and in this outragious manner they continued at the House above eight houres together, the City guards there present, nor the City relieving them; by reason whereof the House was forced to vote what that rude multitude would demand, and then adjourned the House till the next morning. After which the Speaker rising, the Speaker and many of the Members going out of the House, they force them back againe into the House, many of the Apprentices pressing in with them, where they stood with their hats on their heads, and compell'd the Speaker to take the Chaire, and the House to vote in their presence what they pleased, committing many other insolencies, as is published by the Speaker of the House of Comons in his Declaration, and is too well known by all the prot-

And during the time of this execrable violence done by the said Apprentices, Westminster Hall, and the Pallace yard was fill'd with Reformadoes, and other ill-affected persons designed to back them.

After this the Houses being adjourned till Friday following, upon the Thursday the Apprentices printed and posted a paper in several

all places of the City, requiring all their fellowes to be early at the Parliament the next morning, for that they intended to adjourne by seaven of the clock, and that for a Month.

Thus the Speakers with many of the Members of both Houses were driven away from the Parliament.

This being the true state of things as they have broke forth within these few daies, (which are so contrary to all those pretences of Peace, and detestation of a new Warre of late so frequently held forth on all sides) all men may observe to what maturity the long projected designe of some men, (of whom are those that are impeached by us) is now brought and may be traced in the severall steps thereof, as it hath tended to the inslaving this Kingdome, and the destruction of all such well-affected people, who would not comply with them therein; so as by what now is come to light, the justnesse of that Cause this Army had engaged themselves in, and the great and wonderfull Mercy of God, in continuing them together, we assure our selves doth now clearly appeare, to all mens eyes and apprehensions, and will every day more and more be acknowledged, even by those that have heretofore made a question of it.

And if when this Kingdome hath spent so much of it's blood and Treasure, hath past through such unheard of dangers, and overcome such Difficulties, so many years together, All that they must now hope for, and rest in, must only be what the King grants in his Message of the 12. of *May* last: And if this must be imposed upon mens judgements and Consciences by an Oath and vow, entred into in a tumultuous and unlawfull way, and by outrage maintained in despight and contempt of the Parliament: If rather then this should not be accomplished, the Parliament it selfe must be violated and forced into the hands of such of the Members thereof, as have secretly fomented and abetted these practises to that end, That these hidden Councells, and workes of darknesse, might, when they come to their full birth, have the Image of highest authority in the face of them, the better to gaine credit thereunto, and Secure the Authors of them from punishment; For the evidence of all which, we referre our selves to the particulars in our charge against the eleaven Members, compared with those passages of late broke forth, before rehearst: Unto which we shall now only adde, (and leave it to the consideration of all wise and good men) with what Artifice and boldnesse these Members have serv'd themselves of those horrid tumults and violences of their own creating, (instead of shewing their detestation of them) again to intrude themselves into the pub.

lique managing of affaires, and inevitably to embroyle the Kingdome in a new Warre: which their own revenge, and the compassing of their former plots and designes makes them so greedily thirst after. If these things (we say) must be the end and upshot of all, what then remaines to this poore Kingdome, and all true hearted Englishmen, but to joyne together as one man with their Counsells, Estates, and Lives in this way, as our last refuge under God: which he by his wise and gratious providence hath provided and reserved, and keeping up this Army even to a Miracle, so to prevent the aforesaid evills, and to procure to this dying Kingdome, yet a setled Peace and happinesse if it be his blessed will?

These things being seriously considered by us, wee have thought fit in the name of the Army to declare, that all such Members of either House of Parliament, as are already with the Army, or for the securing of their Persons, and for the ends aforesaid, are forced to absent themselves from Westminster, that wee shall hold and esteeme them, as Persons in whom the publique trust of the Kingdome is still remaining, though they cannot for the present sit as a Parliament with freedom and safety at *Westminster*: And by whose advice and Counsels we desire to governe our selves, in the managing these weighty affaires: And to that end we invite them to make repaire to this Army, to joyne with us in this great Cause, we being resolved, and doe hereby faithfully obleige our selves to stand by them therein, and to live and die with them against all opposition whatsoever. And in particular, we doe hold our selves bound to owne that honorable Act of the Speaker of the House of Commons, whoupon the grounds he himselfe expressed in his Declaration sent unto us, hath actually withdrawn himselfe; And hereupon we doe further ingage to use our utmost and speedy indeavours, that he and those Members of either House that are thus inforced away from their attendance at *Westminster*, may with freedom and security sit there, and again discharge their trust as a free and legall Parliament. And in the meane time, we doe declare against that late choyce of a New Speaker by some Gentlemen at *Westminster*, as contrary to all Right, Reason, Law and Custome; And we professe our selves to be most clearly satisfied in our judgments, and are also confident, the Kingdom will herein concurre with us, that as things now stand there is no free nor legall Parliament sitting, being through the aforesaid violence at present suspended. and that the Orders, Votes, or Resolutions forced from the Houses on Munday the 26, of *July* last, as also all such as shall passe in this assembly

ſembly of ſome few Lords and Gentlemen at *Weſtminſter* under what pretence and colour ſoever are void and null, and ought not to be ſubmitted to by the freeborne Subiects of England: And that we may prevent that ſlavery deſigned upon us and the Nation, and that the Kingdom may be reſtored to the happy ſtate of a viſible Government now Eclypſed and darkened, we hold our ſelves bound by our duty to God and the Kingdom, to bring to condigne puniſhment the Authors and promoters of that unparaleld violence, done to the Parliament, and in that to all the freeborne Subiects of England, that are or hereafter ſhall be; And therefore we are reſolved to march up towards London, where we doe expect that the well affected people of that City, will deliver up unto us, (or otherwiſe put into ſafe Cuſtody, ſo as they may be referred to a legall Triall) the eleven impeached Members, that have again thruſt themſelves into the management of publicke affaires by this wicked Deſigne; And that all others will give us ſuch aſſiſtance therein that the Members of both Houſes may receive due incouragement to returne to *Weſtminſter*, there to ſit with all freedome, and ſo to performe their truſt, as ſhall conduce to the ſettlement of this diſtracted Kingdom; And to inflict ſuch puniſhment upon thoſe late Offenders, as ſhall deterre any for the future to make the like attempt.

We appeale to all the Kingdom, if we have not had a very tender care of the City of *London*, there Commiſſioners will witneſſe it; Our lives have not bin deare unto us for the publique good; And being now reſolved by the aſſiſtance of God to bring theſe Delinquents to their deſerved puniſhment as that, then which there cannot be any thing of more publike concernment to the Kingdom, we truſt (if it ſhall come to that) our blood ſhall not be accounted too deare a price for the accompliſhment of it; And if any in the City will engage themſelves againſt us to protect thoſe perſons, and ſo put the Kingdom againe into a new and miſerable Warre, the Blood muſt be laid to the Account of ſuch perſons as the Authors thereof.

And Laſtly, becauſe it is the main Engine, of ours and the Kingdoms enemie, to render us odious, by poſſeſſing the minds of men that we gape only after the plunder of this Great and wealthy City: As the experience of the contrary carriage in all Townes, that we have taken, yeeldeth unto us a Teſtimony beyond the example of any Army, ſo we doe from our hearts declare, that we abhorre the thought thereof: And we doubt not but the World ſhall ſee our actions anſwerable to our profeſſions, and that we ſhall not cauſe any man to ſuffer but by his own default, And that God will manifeſt, we have only

ly to our eyes that Justice may have a free course, the Parliament a free Sitting and Voting, and a full vindication of the late violence done to them.

And as for the Citty of Westminster, the Borough of Southwarke, the Hamlets, and the rest of the Suburbs and out Parts, as we are informed, That they are not so ready to ingage themselves in a new Warre as some would have them, so we are sensible of the hard condition that they are brought into, even by them that claime a Right against both Houses of Parliament, (a strange claime against a Parliament, though more reasonable against others) not to be subjected to a Militia without their own consent, and yet will not be contented unlesse they may have others sent into them, and lay what burthens they please upon them, without allowing them any part of Vote or consent with them. In which poynt of Common Right and Equity we shall not be wanting (in a due way) to assist them for the obtaining of their just desires and immunities: It being our chiefe aime to settle Peace with Truth and Righteousnesse throughout the Kingdome; And that none may be oppressed in his just freedome and liberties, much lesse the Parliament it selfe. Which being duly setled, we shall be ready also to assure unto the King his just Rights and Authority, as any that pretend it never so much, for the better upholding of an ill cause, and the Countenance of tumultuous violence against the Parliament. The which our honest just and necessary undertakings, as we are resolved to pursue, with the uttermost hazard of our lives and fortunes, so we doubt not but we shall find, Gods accustomed goodnesse and assistance with us therein, till we have brought them to a good and happy conclusion for this poore distracted and languishing Kingdome.

By the Appoyntment of his Excellency Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX and his Councell of Warre.

Colebrooke Aug. 3. 1647.

JO. RUSHWORTH *Secretary.*